

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1713
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023**

BONDED LABOUR REHABILITATION FUND

1713. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has created the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund in all districts of the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the details of tentative timeline for commencement of the scheme through District Magistrates/Collectors/Sub-Divisional Magistrates;**
- (c) details of the number of bonded and forced children, women and transgenders rescued and benefited so far by the immediate financial assistance under this scheme; and**
- (d) the amount of funds utilized in FY 2022-23 under the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour Scheme?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (c): Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned States/Union Territories. In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and release bonded labour, a Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer is in operation.

Under the Scheme, a bonded labour rehabilitation fund is to be created at the District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least Rs. 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate. This fund is utilized for extending immediate financial help to the released bonded labour. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are rescued, released and rehabilitated by District Administration of concerned States/Union Territories. Since inception of the Scheme, total 2,96,507 number of bonded labourers (includes all categories) have been rehabilitated.

(d): An amount to the tune of Rs. 5.15 crore has been utilized during FY 2022-23 under the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour Scheme.
